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Dear Harold and Lil:

I enclose two OP-ED columns from current issues of the NY Times. One is by Joseph Califano, a name you will remember from the days of Lyndon Johnson's presidency. The other is by Anthony Lewis. Both will, I believe, interest you.

I also enclose an item from yesterday's Times, ~~and~~ It is about Father Coughlin bringing up to date the status of his Shrine of the Little Flower at Royal Oak, Mich., a suburb just outside of Detroit. The headline of the story is a little misleading. Coughlin was more than a radio priest ~~spurting~~ out anti-semitism on a ~~Saturday~~ Sunday morning radio broadcast from his ~~home~~ church. He also helped organize a proto-fascist quasi-military organization, the Christian Front, and to publish a weekly called Social Justice. He also preached for the monetarization of silver and departure from the gold standard.

What I found especially interesting were the two paragraphs I have bracketed in the middle column, especially the paragraph purporting to describe how he was forced off the air. As you may recall in the early days of US involvement in World War II I worked with O. John Rogge on the prosecution of the seditionists in Washington DC. My first task was to help draw up a third indictment against the defendants, Gerald LK Smith, Joseph McWilliams and his Christian Mobiliziers, Pelley and his Silver Shirts, Fritz Kuhn and the German-American Bund, Sylvester Viereck and others. Bill Maloney had been named by the Dept. of Justice (Biddle was the A.G.) to prepare the indictment. He brought one which was found defective. He brought a second which was better but found insufficient by the AG. Hence he called in Rogge who had been the Assistant AG who headed ~~of~~ the Criminal Division. Rogge recruited me because I had previously worked with Dick Delafied an Asst. US Atty in New York onthe prosecution of the Bund leaders for obtaining US citizenship by fraud, e.e. taking the oath of allegiance with reservations.

You may recall that trial in ~~the US~~ New York City by the U.S. Attorney There resulted in the ~~demobilization~~ denaturalization of all the Bund's national officers and heads of all but one of the local Bund chapters in the USA. That led Rogge to interview me amd get me assigned to his staff in the prosecution of the seditionists for conspiracy to impair the morale of the US armed forces. It was held in Washington, D.C. before Judge Eicher and ended when he died of a heart attack.

When several of us, John Rogge, Joe Burns, Herb Miller worked up a third indictment we had several discussions as to why Bill Maloney had failed to include Father Coughlin and his Christian Front and its peridoical, Social Justice. I think we agreed that Maloney had passed him over because Bill was himself Catholic.

Finally Rogge decided we should meet with Frank Biddle to put the problem to him. He listened and told us he would talk to the Boss (FDR) Four days later he called us back to confer with him and instructed us to omit Coughlin and his Front and Social Justice. but he went on to add that the problem of silencing Coughlin had been solved. He told us that the White House had called in Corcoran (Remember Corcoran and Cohen, FDR's right arms?) Corcoran had called Cardinal Spellman and put the problem of Coughlin with respect to whether he had to be included in the third indictment. Spellman called Corcoran back to tell him (after consultation with higher authority) to tell him that the Church was taking immediate action. As a result, Coughlin would, on the forthcoming Sunday in his radio address, announce he was abandoning his weekly radio program and would direct the Christian Front to disband immediately and would cease the publication of Social Justice. This happened as Biddle had told us and the indictment was completed without any mention of Coughlin, The Christian Front and Social Justice.

The issue never was spoken of in terms of a threat of prosecution but simply as a dilemma faced by Rogge, the prosecutor: indict every Fascist-minded organization and its leaders and publications except the ones led by a Catholic priest. The statement of that dilemna to the Cardinal was effective.

Love to both of you.

P.S. Thanks for your ~~[illegible]~~ note to Fred re libraries and how they are being decimated by the phony budget squeeze.